



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of California

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FORMER FRESNO TEACHER INDICTED ON FOUR COUNTS OF TRAFFICKING AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a grand jury in Fresno returned an indictment against EPHRAIM JOE AGUIRRE II, 28, of Fresno, charging him with two counts each of trafficking and possessing child pornography.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Clovis and Fresno Police Departments with assistance from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office in Fresno.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that from approximately January 2007 through November 5, 2008, the defendant used two different computers to knowingly receive, distribute, and possess images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

According to previously filed court documents, AGUIRRE was a teacher at McLane High School in Fresno, and he allegedly engaged in illegal sexual activity with a minor female student he met while teaching there. During the course of investigating those allegations, investigators examined two different computers that had been owned and used by AGUIRRE. The computers contained thousands of images of child pornography, some of which depicted children as young as two years of age being abused sexually by adults. The computers also contained evidence of chats between AGUIRRE and numerous individuals around the world revealing the distribution and receipt of images of minors such as a young girl in a dog kennel and a young girl crying from the abuse being inflicted. In addition, the chats allegedly contained statements by AGUIRRE about having molested a four-year-old girl and a girl approximately 10-12 years of age. AGUIRRE expressed his interest in abducting, raping, and murdering a child.

Previously AGUIRRE had worked as a teacher at Lawless Elementary School and a middle school in Fresno. Detectives are continuing to examine evidence for possible victims, and anyone with relevant information is urged to contact Corporal Lonnie Amerjan with the Clovis Police Department at 559-324-2473.

If convicted of the receipt or distribution charge, AGUIRRE faces a mandatory five-year term and maximum 20-year term in prison. For the possession charge, he faces a maximum of 10 years in prison. For each charge, he faces a potential fine of \$250,000 and a potential lifetime term of supervised release. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

Charges in an indictment are only allegations, and a defendant is presumed innocent until

and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

AGUIRRE has been ordered detained as “an imminent danger” to the community, and his next court date is December 18, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. for an arraignment.

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